

312 Madison Street (Commercial Building)
Fairmont
Marion County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-132

HABS
WVA,
25-FAIR
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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WVA
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312 MADISON STREET (COMMERCIAL BUILDING)

HABS No. WV-132

Location: 312 Madison Street
Fairmont
Marion County
West Virginia
East side of Madison Street, approximately 130 feet
north of U.S. Route 19 north.

USGS Fairmont West Quadrangle, Universal
Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.573810.4370830

Present Owner: City of Fairmont
P. O. Box 1428
Fairmont, West Virginia 26554

Present Use: Vacant

Demolition scheduled: Spring, 1985

**Statement of
Significance:** 312 Madison Street, apart from its role in the accom-
modation of guests and the entertainment of local residents,
is significant for its unusual architectural character,
which combines elements of several late 19th century styles.

PART 1. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1894
2. Architect: Not known
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Clerk's Office of the County of Marion, West Virginia.

1983 June 24, 1983 in Deed Book 847, page 814
Bess and Bess Golden (widows of Julius and Israel)
To
City of Fairmont

1923 October, 1923 in Deed Book 262, page 814
Charles E. McCray, Jr.
To
Julius and Israel Golden

1922 September 30, 1922 in Deed Book 262, page 230
Kenyon Hotel Company
To
Charles E. McCray, Jr.
(Deed mentioned a building known as "Kenyon Hotel.")

1918 May 21, 1918 in Deed Book 222, page 396
Eva Pauline Schmulbach, executor of Henry Schmulbach
To
Kenyon Hotel Company

1917 June 17, 1917 in Deed Book 215, page 336
The Schmulbach Brewing Company
To
Executor of Henry Schmulbach

1911 September 29, 1911 in Deed Book 178, page 228
T. J. Galliher et al
To
The Schmulbach Brewing Company
(Former Name: Nail City Brewing Company)

1899 October 16, 1899 in Deed Book 91, page 276
Canton Armory Company
To
T. J. Galliher and George H. Nelson

(This deed mentions buildings on the property but does not describe them. The transfer of property includes "opera house chairs, scenery, stoves, lamps, piano, etc.". The deed states that "the party of the second part must carry out all shows, performances, entertainments that party of the first part set up.")

- 1889 May 15, 1889 in Deed Book 45, page 204
Lee Reinheimer et al
To
Canton Armory Company
- 1888 September 8, 1888 in Deed Book 43, page 499
Otto S. Braun
To
Lee Reinheimer et al
(This deed refers to the transfer of "The Roller Rink with furniture and fixtures.")
- 1888 April 1, 1888 in Deed Book 43, page 255
C. W. Arnett and William Jamison
To
Otto S. Braun
- 1884 March 12, 1884 in Deed Book 39, page 27
Jacob Schupbach
To
C. W. Arnett and William Jamison
- 1882 July 27, 1882 in Deed Book 33, page 15
Anne Schupbach (wife of John, deceased)
To
Jacob Schupbach
- 1876 June 5, 1876 in Deed Book 26, page 274
John B. Crane
To
John Schupbach
- 1874 March 31, 1874 in Deed Book 24, page 19
Jacob Beeson
To
John B. Crane
(This deed mentions the transfer of property "together with all buildings and appurtenances.")

It is possible to trace the deed information about Lot 62 back to 1847, but the building was not reasonably estimated to exist any earlier than 1889, based on the evaluation of the director of the Historic

Preservation Unit, Charleston, West Virginia.

B. Historical Context:

During the majority of the time from 1933-1952, the structure was used as a hotel facility. It was known as the Madison Hotel during these 29 years and was part of a small hotel district. No further information is available except as noted in the deed information in Part I., which refers to the structure as the Kenyon Hotel. The hotels in the same block are located within one block of the County Courthouse and two blocks of the former municipal building.

PART III. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: 312 Madison Street is a largely unaltered structure and the best preserved late 19th century hotel remaining in the City. The basic character of the building is classical, with a heavy cornice and monumental order organizing the facade, but the center bay, supported on a heavy "Romanesque" arch, terminates in a round arch with alternating light and dark brick. The wood-framed oriels further dilute the style.
2. Condition of fabric: As of 1982, there was no evidence of any kind of damage to the structural shell of the building. The exterior portions of the wooden bays are seriously deteriorated.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The four story hotel has three-sided oriels rising three stories. The building is 40' across and 106' deep.
2. Foundation: quarry-faced sandstone
3. Wall construction: Exterior walls are made of orange-glazed brick with buff brick detailing. The oriels are wood-framed structures. lintels and column bases and capitals are of stone.
4. Chimneys: At least 14

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The building has an arcaded entrance bay. The Madison Street side of the building has four doors.
- b. Windows and shutters: The building has twenty-four windows and three store windows on the Madison Street side. The front of the building has flanking three-sided oriels rising three stories. The side elevation also features multiple, three-sided bays that cantilever out above the first story.

6. Roof: flat , tar paper .
The roof has a parapet completely surrounding it.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: None
- b. First floor-fourth floor: No specific floor plan information is available. The interior of the structure was inspected in the fall of 1982. At that time, engineering inspection, health department, and fire safety inspection reports noted dry-rotting of floor boards, plaster off walls, interior water damage and pigeon excreta in quantities presenting a hazard for infection with Psithacosis. The building was not determined safe for any further inspection this year, as a result of the above.

2. Stairways:

Wooden stairway of approximately eight feet in width is tiered (i.e. it is necessary to walk the length of the hallway before continuing to ascend each flight of stairs).

3. Openings:

Windows: There is a transom over each of the hotel room doors. These are covered by an oil paper made to look like stained glass.

D. Site:

General setting and orientation: 312 Madison Street faces a west south westerly direction. Madison Street is a connecting street between the bridge bringing traffic from the east side and Jackson Street, heading toward the west side of the City. 312 Madison Street is the tallest structure within three blocks on the easterly side of Madison Street.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Historic Views: Searched, none found.
- B. Interviews: Rodney S. Collins, Director, Historical Preservation Unit, Department of Culture and History, Charleston, West Virginia, February 7 and 8 and March 19 and 21, 1985.
- C. Bibliography:
1. Deed Books, Marion County Courthouse, Fairmont, West Virginia.
 2. Greater Fairmont City Directory, (various years), R.L. Polk & Company, Publishers, 2910 W. Clay Street, P.O. Box 27546, Richmond, Virginia, 23261.
 3. Building Inspection Report for Madison Hotel, September, 1982. Prepared by Commonwealth Consulting Engineers, Fairmont, West Virginia.
- D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: 1) early editions of Fairmont newspaper, known as the "Old Index" 2) possible future book by local historian, Glenn Lough.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This building is part of a downtown improvement project to clear blighted property that has not been occupied or repaired for several years and to create parking to replace parking space that will be taken by new construction in the City of Fairmont. Community Development Block Grant funds (FY'84) were received to complete this activity, including demolition of 312 Madison Street.

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Affiliation: City of Fairmont,
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Date: April, 1985

